

unpatentable over Stupek, Jr., et al. and Burns, et al. and further in view of the U.S. Patent to Choye, et al. 5,842,024.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants agree with the Examiner that Stupek, Jr., et al. does not specifically detail the claimed features of "change information which represents actual changes" and "conflict information". The Examiner cites Burns, et al. as specifically teaching determining conflict between versions. However, the type of conflict being detected in Burns, et al. is a write-before-read (WBR) conflict (e.g. column 5, lines 12-25). Further, Burns, et al. states at column 5, lines 24 and 25 that "Write-before-read conflicts are the only type of data conflicts that are important" (emphasis added).

In contrast, each of the independent claims 1, 16 and 18 pertain to specific types of conflicts which differ from write-before-read conflicts. In particular, the independent claims 1, 16 and 18 recite conflict information which indicates which files and shared resources conflict with one another.

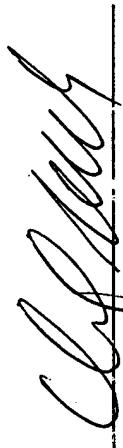
Since neither Stupek, Jr., et al. nor Burns, et al. disclose or suggest the feature of conflict information which indicates which files and shared resources conflict with one another, it is believed that each of the independent claims 1, 16 and 18 and claims which directly or indirectly depend therefrom are clearly patentable over the aforementioned combination of prior art.

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Consequently, in view of the above and in the absence of better art, Applicants' attorney respectfully submits that the application is condition for allowance which allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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